

Discussion Forum Budget Suggestions

Note: Suggestions are paraphrased and combined to save space.

Suggestion	Reply
Increase training opportunities for developers. The better trained, the more efficient	A group of individuals from Management Services is putting a team together to take care of this.
Suspend pay for performance	There is not money available for Group 4. The IT classification is still in the discussion phase
Require restaurant receipts when paying employees for meals on expense vouchers	This will be taken under advisement
Work from home, we are the department of information technology and the technology is certainly available for many people to work from their homes.	This is coming in the future, a group will be analyzing the possibilities
Allow people to cut their hours back while still receiving full health and retirement benefits.	Plan A is the best option for this to occur.
Utilize more students where applicable	Students are hired when appropriate and money permits
Some people have too much work and others have little or no work.	Management needs to balance work loads.
Get rid of all mid-level management. Put our resources where we can get the best bang out of them, that is, in the trenches	We are looking at organizational structure to decide what is appropriate.
Arkansas is initiating an effort to improve the delivery of state services to citizens.	This is an interesting concept and we will look into it.
Make sure DIT is contacted/represented BEFORE legislation gets passed on projects.	DIT is working on a method to be proactive with tracking legislation
Allow customers to enter and order their own purchases.	The Executive on Loan is working with purchasing people to develop system that will add value to the process

Discussion Forum Budget Suggestions

Suggestion	Reply
<p>The office of Research and Policy has been working with Agency Services and Infrastructure Services representatives on an Application Development framework that addresses a process for selecting tools and defining where a tool is in it lifecycle (from death to birth). We are currently identifying and assessing the existing tool sets. Most noteworthy observation is we are extremely diverse and complex.</p>	<p>Past practice within the state in regards to standards has been that one is better than two, two is better than three and so on. Most noteworthy observation is we are extremely diverse and complex. In many instances a single standard does not meet our business need. Our practice is never to be on the bleeding edge. We typically review industry benchmarks prior to proceeding in a given direction.</p>
<p>Reduce telecommunication costs by placing servers closer to the customer, thus reducing fiber to t1 connections.</p>	<p>The telecommunications lines used to build the state's network infrastructure are used to support multiple functions. Most of these functions are not workgroup specific. As a result, moving workgroup specific servers would not reduce the need for the communication lines. Recognizing that telecommunications cost is an issue, DIT has a project underway that consolidates communications circuits. Prior to DIT, agencies ordered their own telecommunications circuits into each of their locations. If the location was shared by multiple agencies, it was not uncommon to have multiple communications circuits installed in the location. This cost the state more money than was necessary to provide service to the location. One of the missions of the Telecommunications Division of Infrastructure Services' is to identify and consolidate those instances where multiple communications circuits are installed into a location where service is needed to State employees. Another project of the Telecommunications division, the LGNET project, is identifying and consolidating instances where multiple State</p>

Discussion Forum Budget Suggestions

Suggestion	Reply
Consider or try open source software. Proprietary software is also funding another state's tax base.	Open source software as an approach to software development and acquisition is currently under review within the DIT. As stated in previous comments, DIT's practice is never to be on the bleeding edge. We typically review industry benchmarks prior to proceeding in a given direction.
Remove all cell phones and pagers. Reimburse individuals for use of cell phone calls or text messaging	A review is underway and a cross-functional team is looking at the policy.
Consider going to a four day week.	This suggestion was forwarded to David Fink at the Office of the State Employer.
No pay raises or cost of living increases for the next two to three years, but eliminate state employees paying state income tax on their wages earned from the State of Michigan.	This suggestion was forwarded to David Fink at the Office of the State Employer.
If the information between departing employees and parking could be made the employees would benefit by receiving parking or not having to pay for vacant spots.	This suggestion was forwarded to Joe Ostrowski at DMB